Political Science 241
Spring 2012
Lecture: M/W 9:00 – 9:50 a.m.
103 Mumford Hall
Discussion Section Leaders: Andrea Kent and Gina Reynolds

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Office: 315 David Kinley Hall
Office Hours: Wednesday, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
or by appointment

Comparative Politics in Developing Nations

Course Description

This course provides an overview of the politics and societies of the developing world and aims to facilitate students' understanding of the reasons for variation across countries in political and economic outcomes and the consequences of that variation. This course surveys key themes, issues and forces shaping the processes of socio-economic and political development in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America. The courses uses the comparative method: we consider hypotheses about why particular countries and governments look and act the way they do and then try to evaluate the hypotheses.

PS241 is a non-Western Cultures, and UIUC Social Sciences course. Students must register for the lecture and one discussion section.

Course Goals

The course has two central objectives. The first objective is to make you familiar with important theoretical approaches to the study of the developing world. To this end, the first part of the class will examine key theoretical contributions to the study of economic and political development in the developing world. The second objective is to introduce you to some of the unique challenges and pressing issues confronting developing countries. By the end of this course, you should have a more systematic and critical understanding of the general problems and patterns found in the political experiences of regions and countries in the developing world.

Over the course of the semester, students will develop the following skills:

- An improved ability to make conceptual distinctions across different types of countries with regard to their economic and political institutions
- An improved ability to think about causal relationships where explanatory variables are linked to outcome variables
- An improved understanding of social science research methods, including qualitative comparison, correlational analysis and experiments
- An improved ability to understand the graphical presentation of data

Course Materials

There are no textbooks for this class. All of the assigned readings come from journals (or books) and are available through e-reserves (http://www.library.illinois.edu/ereserves) and/or the course

website on Compass (http://compass.illinois.edu). The web addresses for some audio and video materials that are required assignments for the class are listed directly on the syllabus.

Course Requirements and Grading

There will be a **midterm test** and a **final test**. Each will be an in-class, multiple choice test based on material from the readings, lecture and discussion section. The midterm test will cover material from the first half of the class, and the final test will explicitly cover material from the second half of the class only (although some of the material from the first half of the class may be implicitly important).

Students will turn in **two writing assignments** (about five pages each) over the course of the semester. The first will ask you to compare two countries using concepts learned in the class and by looking at relevant data for those countries. The second will ask you to use course material (from lectures, readings and discussion sections) in order to make a critical argument. These assignments will be distributed through the course's Compass website on Friday morning and are then due one week later to your discussion section leader. The first assignment will be distributed on 17 February and due on 24 February. The second assignment will be distributed on 13 April and due on 20 April.

The course includes weekly **discussion sections**. In these sections, students have the opportunity to review and discuss assigned articles addressing the themes around which the course is organized. Your attendance and participation are *required* and will be tracked and graded by your discussion section leader.

The relative weighting of each of these components for the final course grade is as follows:

Midterm Test	20 Percent
Final Test	30
First Writing Assignment	15
Second Writing Assignment	20
Discussion Section Participation	15

Final letter grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

A+ 97-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	F <60
A 93-96	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66	
A- 90-92	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

Late Assignments: Assignments that are turned in late because of personal emergencies ***must*** be accompanied by a letter from the Emergency Dean in the Office of the Dean of Students in order to receive full credit. The Emergency Dean can be reached at 217-333-0050.

Academic Honesty: The work that you submit in this class should be your own. When you make use of external sources, you are required to cite them. When in doubt about whether a citation is necessary or not, provide a citation. As described in the University of Illinois Student Code,

consequences for plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty can include zero points on an assignment, failure for the course or dismissal from the university.

Students with Disabilities: The instructor will endeavor to make appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities. As described in the University of Illinois Student Code, these accommodations can be coordinated through the Division of Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES). The DRES Student Services Office is reachable at 217-333-4603 or disability@illinois.edu.

Extra Credit Opportunity for Participation in Political Science Research: Students enrolled in this course will have the opportunity to participate as research subjects in the Political Science Department Subject Pool and other research endeavors in order to earn extra credit. Participation opportunities will take place during at least two different research rounds. Each research round will consist of multiple research sessions, each of which should last roughly 45 minutes or less. Students may participate in only one research session per research round. Each time you participate, you will earn extra credit equivalent to 1.0 percent of the total points in this course. In other words, participating two times (once per research round) would raise your overall course average from 88.0 to 90.0. Details about how to sign up to participate will be distributed in the coming weeks.

Course Schedule

Wednesday 18 January – Introduction / Presentation of the Syllabus

Friday 20 January – *NO DISCUSSION SECTION*

Monday 23 January – What is the Developing World? / What is Development?

- Video: *Hear Our Voices—The Poor on Poverty*, available at http://go.worldbank.org/DUCTEM8V50

Wednesday 25 January – Human Development

- Ravi Kanbur and Lyn Squire. 1999. "The Evolution of Thinking about Poverty: Exploring the Interactions," available at http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPOVERTY/Resources/WDR/ evolut.pdf. (Later published in Gerald M. Meier and Joseph E. Stiglitz, eds. 2001. *Frontiers of Development Economics – The Future in Perspective*. New York: Oxford University Press and The World Bank.)

Friday 27 January – *Discussion Section*

Monday 30 January – Colonialism

- Marcus Colchester. 1993. "Slave and Enclave: Towards a Political Ecology of Equatorial Africa," *The Ecologist* 23 (5): 166-73.

Wednesday 1 February – States, Nations and Nation-States

- Interview: "Jeffrey Gettleman: Reporting from Mogadishu." 2010. *Fresh Air with Terry Gross from WHYY*, 1 July, available at http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=128222247
- Richard S. Williamson. 2011. "Sudan on the Cusp," *Current History* (May): 171-6.

Friday 3 February – *Discussion Section*

Monday 6 February – What is Democracy?

- José Antonio Cheibub, Jennifer Gandhi and James Raymond Vreeland. 2010. "Democracy and Dictatorship Revisited," *Public Choice* 143 (1-2): 67-101.

Wednesday 8 February – Why Are Some Countries Democratic?

- Ronald Inglehart and Christian Welzel. 2009. "How Development Leads to Democracy: What We Know about Modernization," *Foreign Affairs* (March/April): 33-48.

Friday 10 February – *Discussion Section*

Monday 13 February – When Do Countries Transition to Democracy?

- Axel Hadenius and Jan Teorell. 2005. "Cultural and Economic Prerequisites of Democracy: Reassessing Recent Evidence," *Studies in Comparative International Development* 39 (4): 87-106.

Wednesday 15 February – When Do Countries Transition to Democracy?

- Lisa Anderson. 2011. "Demystifying the Arab Spring: Parsing the Differences Between Tunisia, Egypt and Libya," *Foreign Affairs* 90 (3): 2-7.
- Jack Goldstone. 2011. "Understanding the Revolutions of 2011," *Foreign Affairs* 90 (3): 8-16.

Friday 17 February – *Discussion Section – Receive First Writing Assignment*

Monday 20 February – Politics in Authoritarian Countries

- Eva Bellin. 2004. "The Robustness of Authoritarianism in the Middle East: Exceptionalism in Comparative Perspective," *Comparative Politics* 36 (2): 139-57.

Wednesday 22 February – Politics in Authoritarian Countries

- Steven Levitsky and Lucan A. Way. 2002. "The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism," *Journal of Democracy* 13 (1): 51-65.

- Diamond, Larry. 2002. "Thinking about Hybrid Regimes," *Journal of Democracy* 13 (2):21–35.

Friday 24 February – *Discussion Section – First Writing Assignment Due*

Monday 27 February – How Does Economic Development Happen?

- Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson and James Robinson. 2005. "Institutions as a Fundamental Cause of Long-Run Growth," in Philippe Aghion and Steven N. Durlauf, eds., *Handbook of Economic Growth*, Volume 1A: 385-471.

Wednesday 29 February – How Does Economic Development Happen?

- Jeffrey Sachs. 2005. "The End of Poverty," *Time* 14 March: 42-54.

Friday 2 March – *Discussion Section*

Monday 5 March – What Hinders Economic Development?

- Video: Christopher Walker and Andrew Weir. 2009. *People & Power: Oil Gotten Gains*. Al Jazeera, 9 September, available at http://youtu.be/VpGU1hsuSpU (part I, 10:47) and http://youtu.be/8TcxdSbL0-E (part 2, 11:42)

Wednesday 7 March – What Hinders Economic Development?

- Jeffrey A. Frankel. 2010. "The Natural Resource Curse: A Survey," National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper 15836, March, 48 pp.

Friday 9 March – *Discussion Section*

Monday 12 March – Catch-Up / Review

Wednesday 14 March – *MIDTERM TEST*

Friday 16 March – *NO DISCUSSION SECTION*
Monday 19 March – Friday 23 March - *SPRING BREAK*

Monday 26 March – Foreign Aid and Development

- Steven Radelet. 2006. "A Primer on Foreign Aid," Center for Global Development Working Paper No. 92, July, Washington, D.C. 24 pp.

Wednesday 28 March – Foreign Aid and Development

- Moyo, Dambisa. 2009. "Why Foreign Aid is Hurting Africa," *Wall Street Journal* 21 March: W1.

- Audio: William Easterly. 2011. "What Must We Do to End World Poverty?" Columbia Tikvah-Hertog Summer Institute, 10 August, available at http://dri.fas.nyu.edu/docs/IO/20919/Columbia_SeekingTheGoodLife_081011_EXCERPT.mp3

Friday 30 March - *Discussion Section*

Monday 2 April – Globalization and the Developing World

- John Williamson. 1993. "Democracy and the 'Washington Consensus'," *World Development* 21 (8): 1329-36.
- John Marangos. 2009. "What Happened to the Washington Consensus? The Evolution of International Development Policy," *Journal of Socio-Economics* 38: 197-208.

Wednesday 4 April – Globalization and the Developing World

- Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. 2000. "Two Cheers for Sweatshops," *New York Times Magazine* 24 September.
- Video: TrueTube. ND. *Sweatshops: Necessary Evil?* Available at http://tinyurl.com/32m5eog
- Kate Eshelby. 2006. "Cotton: The Huge Moral Issue," *New African,* January: 26-28.
- Dani Rodrik. 2004. "How to Make the Trade Regime Work for Development," unpublished manuscript, Harvard University, 5 pp.
- Paul Blustein. 2010. "R.I.P., WTO," *Foreign Policy,* January/February: 66.

Friday 6 April – *Discussion Section*

Monday 9 April – The Politics of Ethnic and Religious Diversity

- Donald Horowitz. 1993. "Democracy in Divided Societies," *Journal of Democracy* 4 (4): 18-38.

Wednesday 11 April – The Politics of Ethnic and Religious Diversity

- Allen Hicken. 2009. "Political Engineering and Party Regulation in Southeast Asia," in Benjamin Reilly and Per Nordlund, eds. *Political Parties in Conflict-Prone Societies: Regulation, Engineering and Democratic Development*. New York: United Nations University Press.

Friday 13 April – *Discussion Section – Receive Second Writing Assignment*

Monday 16 April – The Political-Economics of Ethnic and Religious Diversity

- Habyarimana, James, Macartan Humphreys, Daniel N. Posner and Jeremy M. Weinstein. 2007. "Why Does Ethnic Diversity Undermine Public Goods Provision?" *American Political Science Review* 101 (4): 709-25.

Wednesday 18 April – The Political-Economics of Ethnic and Religious Diversity

- Benjamin A. Olken. 2009. "Corruption Perceptions vs. Corruption Reality," *Journal of Public Economics* 93 (7-8): 950-64.

Friday 20 April – *Discussion Section – Second Writing Assignment Due*

Monday 23 April – New Innovations in Poverty Alleviation and Development

- David Roodman. Chapter 2 from Microfinance Open Book Blog. Washington, D.C.: Center for Global Development., 22 pp, available at http://blogs.cgdev.org/open_book/2009/02/summary-and-outline.php. (Later published as David Roodman. 2012. *Due Diligence: An Impertinent Inquiry into Micofinance*. Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Press.)
- Video: Opportunity International. ND. *Microfinance 101: An Introduction*, available at http://youtu.be/nMg_Lc6akos

Wednesday 25 April – New Innovations in Poverty Alleviation and Development

- David Roodman. Chapter 6 from Microfinance Open Book Blog. Washington, D.C.: Center for Global Development., 43 pp, available at http://blogs.cgdev.org/open_book/2009/02/summary-and-outline.php. (Later published as David Roodman. 2012. *Due Diligence: An Impertinent Inquiry into Micofinance*. Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Press.)
- Video: *Microfinance – Does It Really Work?* available at http://youtu.be/J4wxo5IHpT0

Friday 27 April – *Discussion Section*

Monday 30 April – Catch Up / Review / Concluding Remarks

Wednesday 2 May – *IN-CLASS FINAL TEST*